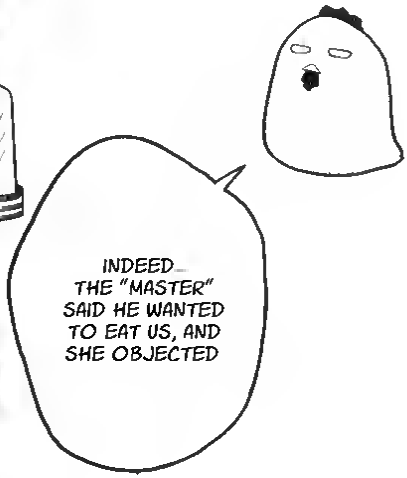
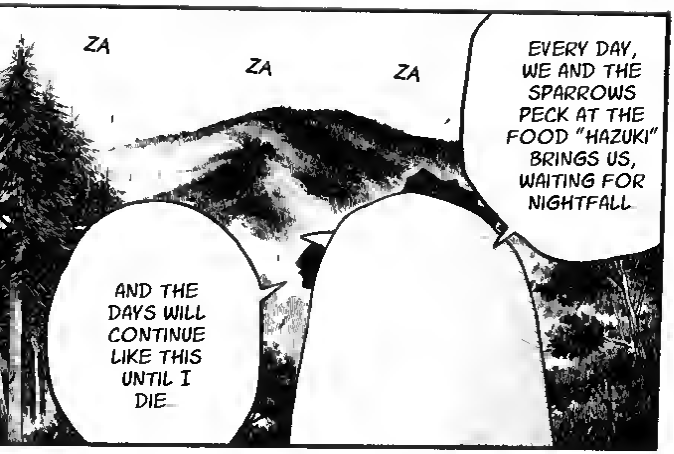
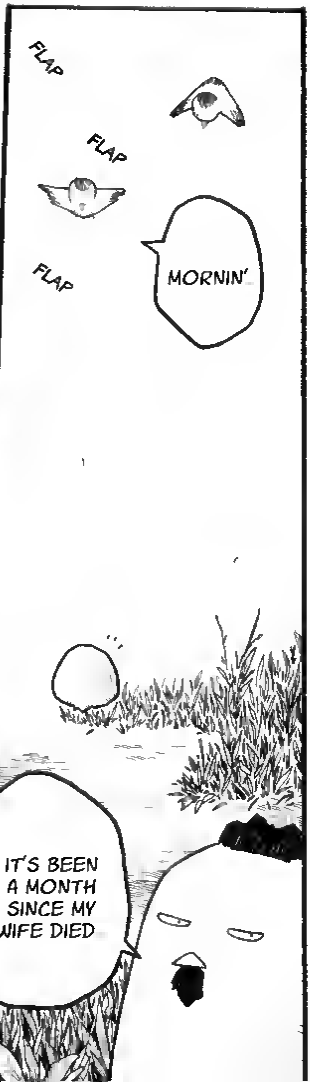
WHAT DO YOU MEAN, WE SHOULD EAT THEM BECAUSE THEY WON'T LAY EGGS?!
IF YOU'RE GOING TO EAT THEM, THEN I'M LEAVING THIS HOUSE!
ALL RIGHT, SHUT UP ALREADY, I WAS JUST SAYIN'!
I AIN'T GONNA EAT THEM SO HURRY UP AND GO TO SCHOOL!
BESIDES, IT'S YOUR FAULT THAT THE MOTHER GOT EATEN BY A FOX, DAD!
YOU GOT DRUNK AND FELL ASLEEP AND DIDN'T CLOSE THE HENHOUSE!
I SWEAR!
IF ANYTHING HAPPENS TO THEM, I'M NEVER GOING TO FORGIVE YOU!

Week #9:
The National Bird of France



DADDY, ARE WE GOING TO GET EATEN?
OH, NO. AS LONG AS "HAZUKI" IS HERE, WE SHOULD BE FINE...


ZA
ZA
ZA
EVERY DAY, WE AND THE SPARROWS PECK AT THE FOOD "HAZUKI" BRINGS US, WAITING FOR NIGHTFALL
AND THE DAYS WILL CONTINUE LIKE THIS UNTIL I DIE


FLAP
FLAP
FLAP
MORNIN'
IT'S BEEN A MONTH SINCE MY WIFE DIED

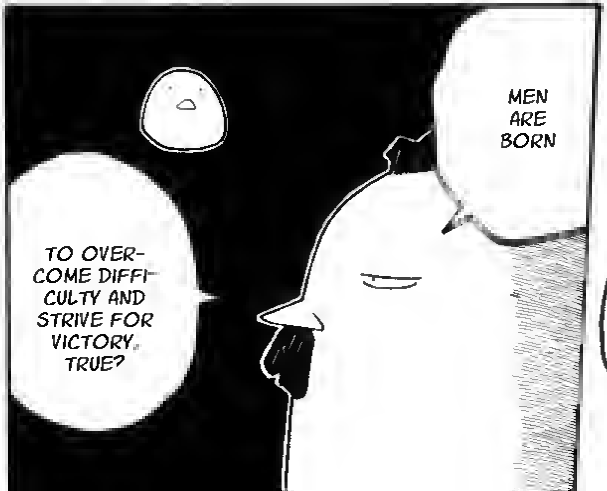
FOR REALS
IT'S BREAD TODAY
FOR REALS
LIVING, DYING A LIFE SPENT WITHIN THE CONFINES OF THIS YARD
ISN'T IT RATHER BLAND?

POPS
IT'S SAID THAT CHICKENS ARE THE NATIONAL BIRD OF A COUNTRY CALLED FRANCE THEY'RE LOVED AND APPRECIATED THERE
COME TO THINK OF IT, I ONCE HEARD THIS FROM MY POPS

WHAT LETS YOU SAY THAT WITH SUCH CONFIDENCE?
EH?

SON

ARE YOU A MAN?
I AM


MEN ARE BORN
TO OVERCOME DIFFICULTY AND STRIVE FOR VICTORY, TRUE?

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU MEAN

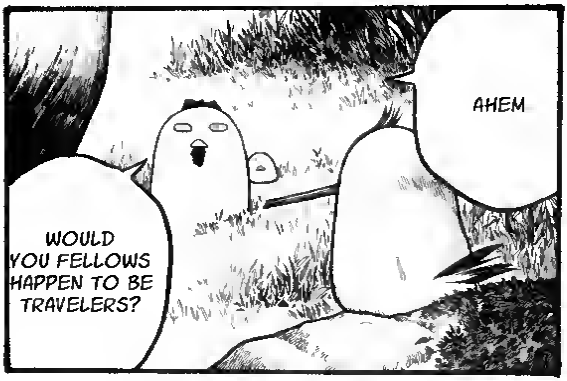
WILL YOU LIVE OUT A CAREFREE LIFE HERE?
OR WILL YOU GO TO FRANCE AND MAKE A NAME FOR YOURSELF?
SON... DON'T YOU WANT TO GO TO FRANCE?
FRANCE?
MAKE A NAME...
THAT SOUNDS REALLY AMAZING, DADDY
GOODBYE TO THIS HUMDRUM LIFE OF ONLY WAITING FOR DEATH.
LET US DEPART, SON
FROM THIS DAY ON WE SHALL BE REBORN
THAT MEANS, SPARROWS, THAT THIS IS FAREWELL.
FOR REALS
FOR REALS
MY SON AND I ARE OFF TO FRANCE, TO SEEK A BRIGHTER FUTURE

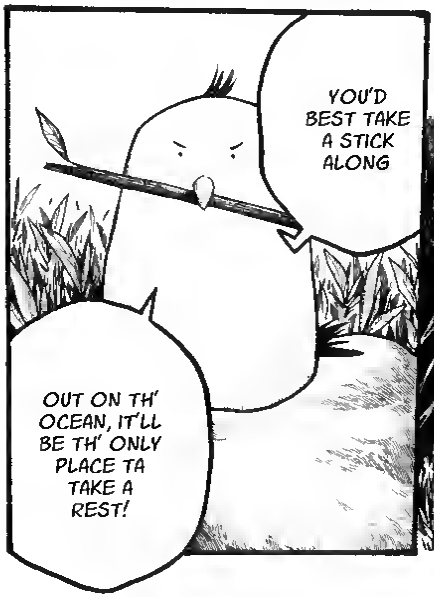
DADDY, WHICH WAY IS FRANCE?
IT'S PROBABLY...
SOMEWHERE AROUND THE BASE OF THAT MOUNTAIN
nyaon
nyaon
WHAT'S THIS ABOUT FRANCE?
WHY D'YOU WANNA GO THERE?
HUH?
YOU'RE THE NATIONAL BIRD, SO YA WANNA GO GET THE ROYAL TREATMENT OVER THERE?
HAH!
IF I WENT TO EGYPT, I'D BE CONSIDERED A GOD!

I'VE NEVER BEEN AWAY FROM HERE.
LIKE I WOULD KNOW.
GRAND-MOTHER, YOU'RE AN ENCYCLO-PEDIA ON FOUR LEGS
HOW SHOULD WE GO ABOUT GETTING TO THIS "FRANCE" PLACE?
HAH!
ZA
ZA
ZA
WHEN YOU GET TO BE AROUND MY AGE, IT'S NICE TO HAVE A BUNCH OF STORIES TO TELL
ANYWAY, GOOD LUCK
IF YOU GULP IT DOWN LIKE THAT, YOUR TUMMY WILL HURT WHEN YOU WALK

EHH, I MIGRATE TOO, SO I GOTCHA
WHENNIT GETS WARM AG'IN, AY'LL BE BACK, SURE

EHH, BUT JAPAN'S NICE, YA KNOW_?
SURE, BUB, BUT WHENNIT GETS COLD AY'M OUTTA HEAH
bleh


AHEM
WOULD YOU FELLOWS HAPPEN TO BE TRAVELERS?

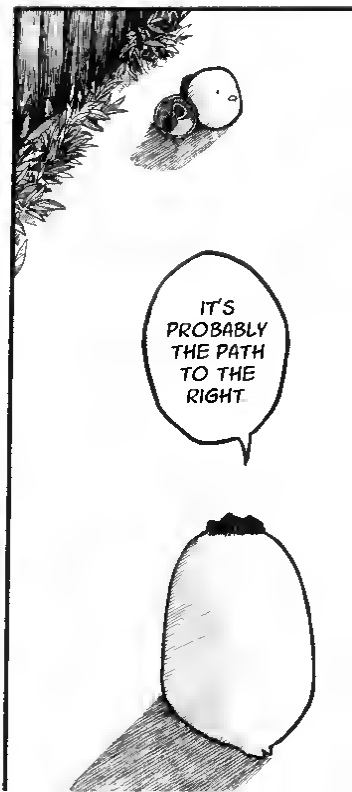

YOU'D BEST TAKE A STICK ALONG
OUT ON TH' OCEAN, IT'LL BE TH' ONLY PLACE TA TAKE A REST!

FRANCE?!
THAT'S RIGHT AWFUL FAR!

JAPAN'S A NICE PLACE, EH?
AND YET YOU'RE GOING SO FAR AS TO THROW AWAY YOUR EXISTING WAY OF LIFE...
SORRY TO PUT A DENT IN YOUR SPIRITS WHEN YOU'RE JUST STARTING OUT, BUT
YOUR CIRCUM-STANCES AREN'T THAT BAD, EH?
IF YA GO TA A PLACE WIT HUMANS, FRANCE 'R JAPAN, IT'S GONNA BE TH' SAME
YEH, AIN'T DAT TH' TRUTH
DO DO YOUR LEGS HURT?
RUMBLE
AS FELLOW TRAVELERS, WE SHOULD GIVE THEM OUR SUPPORT, EH.
ANYHOW, THE TWO OF THEM ARE ON A JOURNEY WITH A PURPOSE

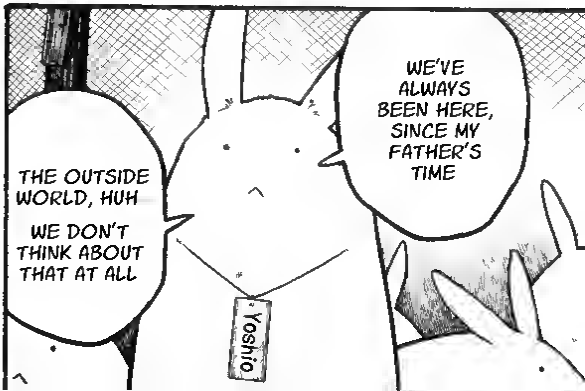
ARE YOU OKAY?
DON'T PUSH YOURSELF TOO HARD IF YOU'RE TIRED

YOU SEE THAT BRIDGE OVER THERE?
OVER THE BRIDGE, AND WE'VE MADE IT KEEP YOUR CHIN UP


IT'S PROBABLY THE PATH TO THE RIGHT

OH, I'VE SEEN THESE BEFORE
RIGHT, THESE GUYS ARE CALLED "RIBBITS."
SOME-THING LIVES IN THERE
LET'S ASK IF THEY'LL SPARE US SOME FOOD

(CLASS FARMING AREA)



AND SO OUR HEARTS ACHE IN SYMPATHY TO YOUR PLIGHT
IF YOU'RE UP FOR IT, HOW ABOUT WE STRIKE OUT FOR FRANCE TO-GETHER?
ISN'T THAT KINDA ROUGH?
LIVING HERE FOREVER
WE'VE EX-PERIENCED THE SAME LIFE OF CAPTIVITY THAT YOU'RE LIVING
IT'S WHY WE'VE SET OFF TODAY ON A JOUR-NEY TO SEEK A BETTER EXISTENCE
WHAT'S WRONG?
I
HM?

IT'S A RUTHLESS KILLER!
RUN FOR IT!

THWAP

run for it
run for it
OHHO...

COULD... COULD YOU LET US GO...
WE DIDN'T COME HERE TO DIE...

WHAT'S THIS, CHICKENS WANDERIN' 'ROUND WITH NO HUMANS TO PROTECT 'EM, EH?
MUST BE MY LUCKY DAY I HAVEN'T HAD A DECENT MEAL FOR A MONTH NOW, SO I GOTTA GIVE YA MY THANKS

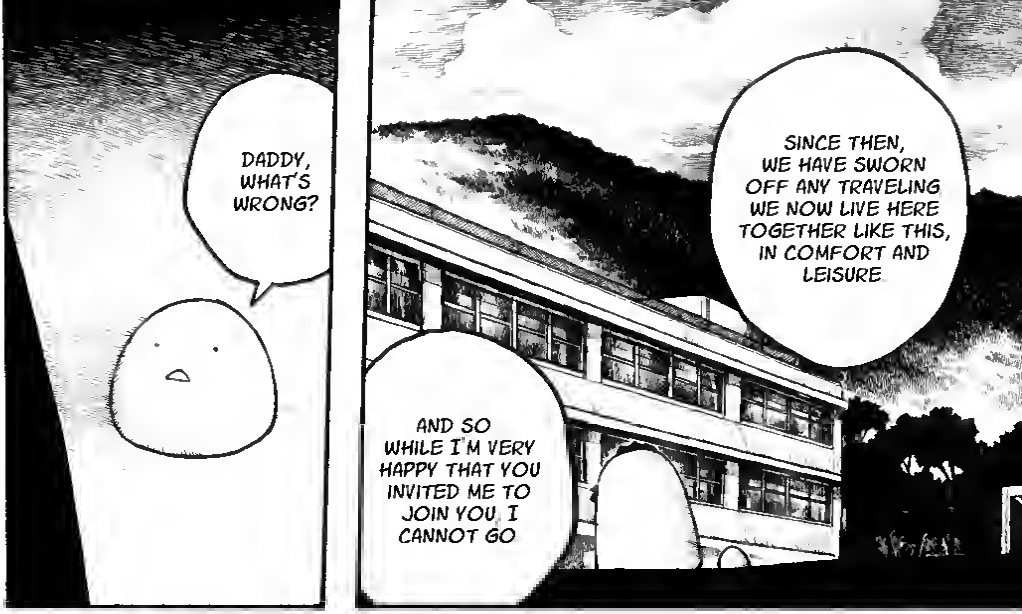
HMMMM, THAT'S QUITE THE TRIP. I'M IMPRESSED.
WE'RE AIMING TO ESCAPE OUR HUMDRUM LIVES BY GOING TO FRANCE
DON'T WORRY, IT'LL BE OVER IN ONE STROKE. WON'T HURT AT ALL.
DASH
ACCEPT THAT YOU'RE GONNA DIE TODAY, AND CURSE YOUSELF FOR BEING UN-PREPARED.
BUT YA KNOW...
IF YA WANNA DO SOMETHING LIKE ESCAPE YOUR HUMDRUM LIFE...
IT'S NOT SAFE TO DREAM TOO BIG, BEYOND WHAT YOU'RE ABLE TO HANDLE.
STEP
THINK YOU CAN RUN?!
RUN FOR IT, SON!
GO... SAVE YOUR-SELF!

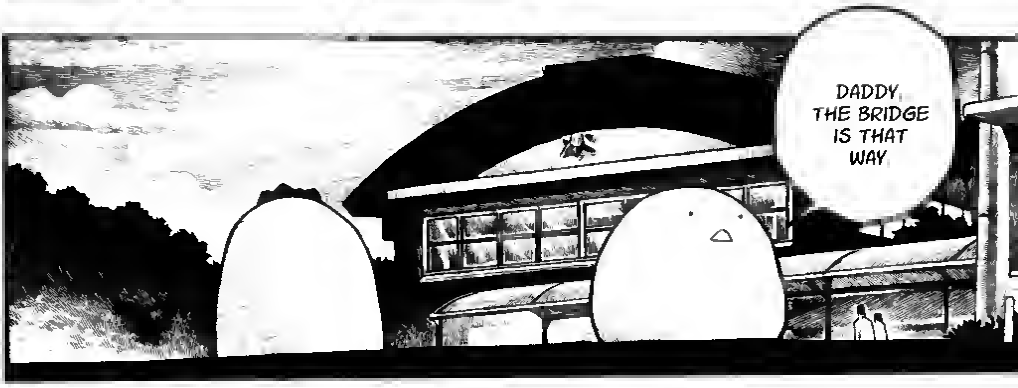
WHA...?
BAM
RUSTLE
WHOA!
YEESH!
GYAHHH!
RUSTLE
O-OKAY, I GOT IT! YOU BEAT ME LEMME GO, PULEEZE!
SLAM

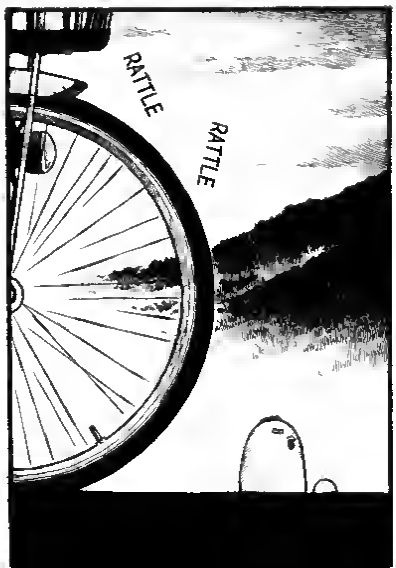
RUSTLE
!
AH... THANK YOU SO MUCH.
THANKS TO YOU, WE BARELY ESCAPED WITH OUR LIVES.
...
YOU ARE MISTAKEN.
I MERELY DEPRIVED A FOOL OF HIS PREY.
EH
GULP
I OVERHEARD WHAT YOU WERE SAYING FROM MY PERCH ON THAT TREE
WHAT DO YOU INTEND TO DO, ONCE GET TO THIS SO-CALLED FRANCE

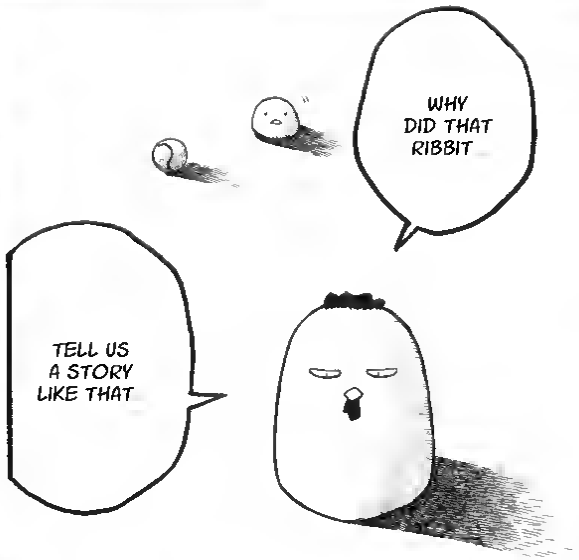
FINDING A PLACE TO CALL HOME IS WHAT WE ALL LIVE FOR!
GO BACK HOME!
WHOOSH
THANK GOOD-NESS
I THOUGHT YOU WERE A GONER MY HEART WAS BEATING SO QUICK
OUR AN-CESTOR WAS A TRAVELER WHO LIVED ALONE IN THE SNOWY MOUNTAINS
THE FOXES COULDN'T SEE THIS ANCESTOR BECAUSE HIS FUR AND EYES WERE BOTH WHITE

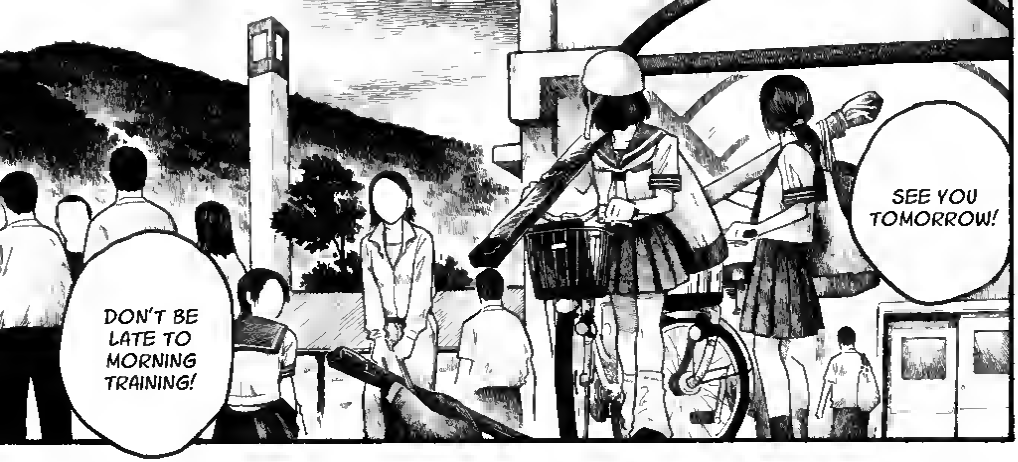
THEY SAY OUR ANCESTOR WAS SO DISTRAUGHT THAT HE CRIED ALL THE TIME
AND SO THERE HE LIVED, ALONE IN THE SNOW
BUT ONE DAY—
HE WAS SEEN, AND MADE SOME COMPANIONS
WHEN HE WAS LONELY, HE COULDN'T FIND ANY FRIENDS, AND REALIZED THAT NOBODY WOULD EVER BE ABLE TO SEE HIM
INDEED, OUR ANCESTOR ASKED THE SAME THING
HOW HOW'D THAT HAPPEN?
FROM THAT TIME HENCE-FORTH
OUR EYES HAVE BEEN COLORED RED
"SINCE YOU WERE CRYING SO MUCH FROM LONELINESS, YOUR EYES TURNED BRIGHT RED THEN WE WERE ABLE TO FIND YOU"
HIS COM-PANIONS REPLIED


DADDY, WHAT'S WRONG?
AND SO WHILE I'M VERY HAPPY THAT YOU INVITED ME TO JOIN YOU, I CANNOT GO
SINCE THEN, WE HAVE SWORN OFF ANY TRAVELING. WE NOW LIVE HERE TOGETHER LIKE THIS, IN COMFORT AND LEISURE.


DADDY, THE BRIDGE IS THAT WAY.


RATTLE
RATTLE

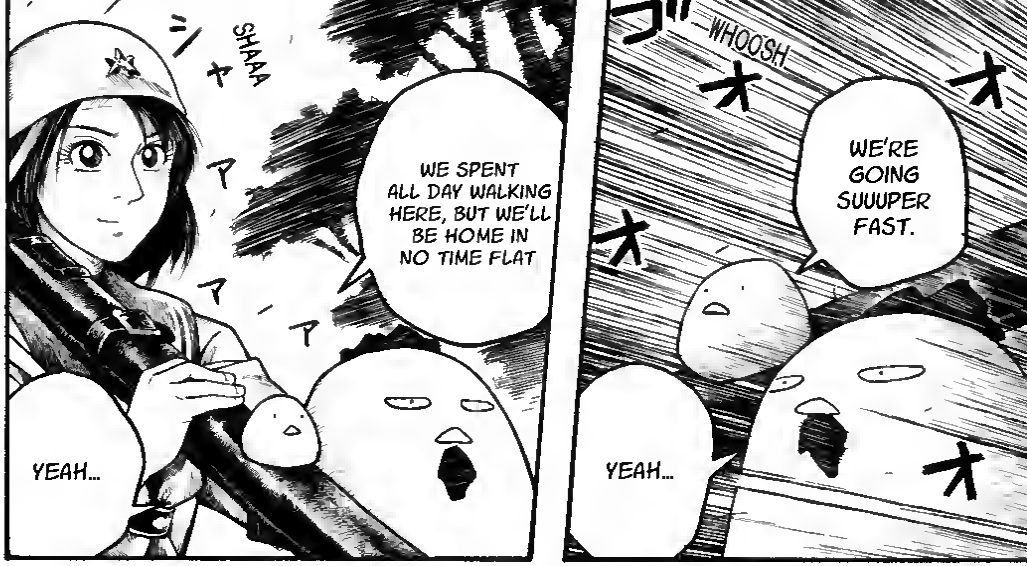

WHY DID THAT RIBBIT.
TELL US A STORY LIKE THAT.


DON'T BE LATE TO MORNING TRAINING!
SEE YOU TOMORROW!

!
HUH?

BYE NOW, HAZUKI!
HUH? WHY'RE THOSE THINGS ON SCHOOL GROUNDS?

SAY, DADDY.
HMM?



WEEK #9 ☯ THE NATIONAL BIRD OF FRANCE / END